

# Celebrate Armed Forces Day

By Col. Doug Richardson  
48th Fighter Wing commander

Tomorrow marks the official celebration of our Armed Forces – the Air Force, Army, Navy, Marines and Coast Guard. Each service has its own unique accomplishments and traditions, but we do have one important thing in common – we are all in the “service.” Service to our country, service to our citizens and service before self!

In the 221 years since the founding of the United States, our Armed Forces have had many tests to prove themselves. From the American Revolution to Desert Storm, we’ve fought together as a team. It’s our teamwork that makes us formidable, and it’s our teamwork

***“The 48th Fighter Wing is a valuable part of (the armed forces) team.”***

-- Col. Richardson  
Wing commander

that keeps us free. It’s this teamwork that allows America to say “no” to inhumanity, “no” to terrorism and “no” to war, and “yes” to freedom, “yes” to democracy and “yes” to peace.

The 48th Fighter Wing is a valuable part of this team. The 48th flew air support over the beaches at Normandy during the D-Day invasion in 1944; we patrolled the European skies for 50 years preventing a Soviet invasion; and we struck Libya in response to state-sponsored terrorism. More re-

cently, our crews demonstrated the effectiveness that airpower can have in bringing the warring factions in Bosnia to the peace table. To this day, our aircraft and aircrew continue to patrol the no-fly zones over northern Iraq and Bosnia, and others throughout the wing participate in key U.S. and NATO peacekeeping missions worldwide.

The U.S. Air Force is an essential component of a balanced team that keeps America’s vision focussed.

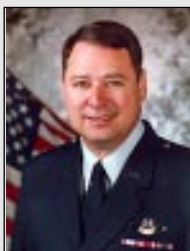
This Armed Forces Day will be observed in an especially significant year for the Air Force. Fifty years ago, the U.S. Army Air Corps was nearing the end of its fabled existence and preparations were made to make the air force a separate branch of service. The dream of many airmen came true Sept. 18, 1947, when President Harry S. Truman signed the legislation into law.


We’re the inheritors of their golden legacy and the creators of the Air Force’s future.

Tomorrow is a special day meant to recognize the countless sacrifices of more than 1 million men and women of the U.S. Armed Forces. It’s the day to observe the pride, professionalism and the teamwork that keeps America free.

## Action lines

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48th Fighter Wing  
commander

### Thanks to equipment maintenance squadron

**I**would like to extend my deepest thanks to the men in 48th Equipment Maintenance Squadron munitions control flight. My husband is TDY and my eight-week-old daughter and I were in a minor car accident. I had no way to contact my husband to let him know. The gentlemen in munitions control went out of their way to not only find a number but speak to the deployment commander and personally contact my husband. This was all done after 9 p.m. These gentleman could have easily said, “Wait until duty hours,” but instead went out of their way to help.

What a wonderful feeling it is to be taken care of by people who don’t know me, while my husband is away.

These people definitely deserve kudos. I appreciate the attitude and compassion they shared, and their determination to help was wonderful. Please pass this kudos on to the EMS commander and chief. I’m proud to be an EMS wife.

**I**’m very happy to hear that those in munitions control went out of their way to help you contact your husband after your mishap. Frankly, I’m not surprised. Our wing’s ultimate mission is to be ready to deploy and fight. That takes dedicated, professional people that can focus on the job at hand.

But we all know that that can’t happen unless their families are being taken care of and we team together. I’m proud to hear of the actions in EMS and know that we all continue to follow their example.



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